

### Remarks

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1-21 are indicated as being allowable. Claims 22-30 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and re-examination of the application is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth herein.

1. The Examiner has rejected claims 22-25 and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McHugh in view of Nakano, Lynch, and APA. Claims 22-25 and 27-30 have been cancelled. The rejection of claims 22-25 and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is therefore moot.

2. The Examiner has rejected claims 22-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of Billenstein, McHugh, APA, Natori, and Bitsch. Claims 22-30 have been cancelled. The rejection of claims 22-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is therefore moot.

3. The Examiner has rejected claims 22, 25-26, and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natori. Claims 22, 25-26, and 29-30 have been cancelled. The rejection of claims 22, 25-26, and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is therefore moot.

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Order

Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirai et al., Applicants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Slonaker", written over a horizontal line.

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